

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A non-contact infrared drier installation for a passing web, comprising:

gas-heated infrared radiant elements arranged next to one another so as to form a unit, wherein the installation is configured to heat the web without contacting the web with a heated surface, and

said unit comprising at least two adjacent rows of gas-heated infrared radiant elements stretching out in the transversal direction of the web substantially over an entire width of the web,

wherein said infrared drier installation comprises a recycling device configured to recycle, at least partially, combustion gases, wherein said infrared drier installation comprises a device configured to avoid suction of cold air between two adjacent rows of radiant elements,

wherein the device configured to avoid suction of cold air between two adjacent rows of radiant elements fills a space between the two adjacent rows of radiant elements.

2. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 1, wherein said device configured to avoid the suction of cold air between the two adjacent rows of radiant elements is a sealing gasket.

3. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 1, wherein said drier installation comprises devices that form an insulating thermal arc extending to a vicinity of a backside of the radiant elements.

4. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 3, wherein said devices that form an insulating thermal arc have peripheral walls stretching out to a vicinity of the web, at least along lateral edges and an upstream transversal edge of the unit of radiant elements.

5. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 1, wherein each radiant element has first detachable connecting devices configured to cooperate with second detachable complementary connecting devices coupled by at least one fixed pipe supplying gas, combustion air or a mixture of gas and air,

wherein the first and second detachable connecting devices are connected by a quick connect coupling.

6. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 5, wherein the first and the second connecting devices are designed so as to oppose a preset maximal resistance and to yield, in a reproducible way, to a load force that exceeds this maximal resistance.

7. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 5, wherein said drier installation has for each row of radiant elements a corresponding gas tube, which has, for each radiant element, a fixed pipe configured to supply gas to the said radiant element, and wherein each radiant element has on its backside a back tubing configured to supply a mixture of gas and air that is adapted to be directly coupled in a detachable and tight way with a corresponding fixed gas pipe, wherein the fixed pipe or the back tubing has an air inlet opening that communicates with an air tube to provide the mixture of gas and air.

8. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 7, wherein for each row of radiant elements, a combustion air supply tube is placed between the radiant elements and the corresponding gas tube,

wherein for each radiant element, the air tube has opposite openings respectively made in two opposite regions of a wall of the air tube: a first opening that is made in a first region adjacent to the radiant element, and a second opening that is made in a second region adjacent to the gas tube,

wherein through each of the first and second openings passes the corresponding fixed pipe or a corresponding back tubing.

9. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 8, wherein for each radiant element, the corresponding fixed pipe passes in a tight way through the second opening, wherein the second opening is formed in the second region in the wall of the air tube adjacent to the gas tube,

wherein the corresponding back tubing supplying the mixture of gas and air passes through the first opening, wherein the first opening is formed in the first region in the wall of the air tube adjacent to the said radiant element, and includes the air inlet opening that ends inside the air tube to form the mixture of gas and air.

10. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 9, wherein the back tubing of each radiant element has at its front end a gas injector connected to the back tubing.

11. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 1, wherein said drier installation has first collection devices configured to collect downstream of the radiant elements at least a part of the combustion gases produced by the said radiant elements, and first blowing devices configured to blow on the passing web, downstream the first collection devices, a gaseous mixture that is warmed by the combustion gases.

12. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 11, wherein said drier installation has several ventilators, arranged in a row stretching out in a transversal direction of the passing web, wherein each ventilator is connected to collection hoods and to blowing hoods, respectively, which cover at least a part of a width of the passing web.

13. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 12, wherein each ventilator is located above the said collection and blowing hoods, and adjacent to corresponding radiant elements, in relation to the said hoods.

14. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 11, wherein an insulating thermal arc is located between the radiant elements and the first collection devices.

15. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 1, wherein each radiant element comprises a locking device configured to lock said radiant element in a working position.

16. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 1, wherein each radiant element comprises an insulating device configured to insulate the combustion gases from a backside of the radiant element.

17. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 3, wherein each radiant element is enveloped in a peripheral jacket that extends from a front side of the radiant element towards a back to a surface of the insulating thermal arc that faces the passing web.

18. (Previously Presented) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 1, wherein each radiant element, or a peripheral jacket enveloping each radiant element, has at least a bulge configured to rest on an adjacent radiant element, or on an adjacent peripheral jacket, to prevent pivoting of the radiant element around an axis of a fixed pipe.

19. (Currently Amended) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 1, wherein said drier installation comprises a device configured to limit infiltration of cold air ~~infiltration~~ between the passing web and the radiant elements.

20. (Currently Amended) A non-contact infrared drier installation according to claim 19, wherein said device configured to limit infiltration of cold air ~~infiltration~~ between the passing web and the radiant elements comprises a cold air blowing device installed above a first row of radiant elements configured to blow air slightly in a direction opposite to a moving direction of the web.